

File #

Sounding Off...

Editor, *Duxbury Clipper*:

It is doubtful that there is even one golfer selfish enough to jeopardize our water system to want an extension to the golf course.

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out if the golfers need more exercise let them go around twice.

Winnifred D'Amelio

Editor, *Duxbury Clipper*:

The Upper Alden School Building should not be destroyed but saved for Town Office use. Why aren't the selectmen planning on this?

There would be space for a large meeting area. And space for the Recreation Department, the Senior Citizens, a Youth Center, and much more.

The town already owns this building. Put it to use for the town and not use taxpayers' money to destroy it.

Dena Murdock
Spring St.

Editor, *Duxbury Clipper*:

On Saturday, March 11, citizens of Duxbury have the opportunity to vote at Town Meeting for a new library facility. A negative vote will permanently cripple this community resource.

Despite the devastating losses and closings during the Depression of the 1930's, there was one public institution that remained open, that welcomed all people, and kept information available—our public libraries. Libraries have always responded to the needs of the community and now is our time to help our library and community meet the cultural, educational, and technological needs that await us in the 21st Century.

I strongly urge all citizens to turn out on Saturday to vote to support the Alden Library Project. We are legally mandated to upgrade our current building. Let's make our expenditure effective with a new facility.

Janet Schwartz, president
Friends of the Duxbury Free Library

Editor, *Duxbury Clipper*:

After having read the many articles printed in the *Clipper* pertaining to the proposed Alden Library project, I am convinced I must vote against it.

The architects' proposed plans helped a lot in my decision. They seem to include everything but a bowling alley. Granted, there is a lot of space there that will need filling up one way or another. When I attended school there, the building contained 12 classrooms, a gym-auditorium (surrounded on 3 sides by a balcony) where concerts, graduations, assemblies, plays and the town meetings were held. Also, a science lab, lockers and showers and other things pertaining to school life. And when you consider bashing all that apart, and having to fill it up again, it boggles the mind.

The fact that the present library has computer connections with other town libraries in the area makes it possible to obtain just about any book. What is the need for the Duxbury Library to house hundreds of more books?

When there are several buildings in town where citizens can meet for various functions (Old Town Hall, First Parish Church, Holy Family Church, various school rooms, the school auditorium and gym, Lower Alden School, and the Art Complex for cultural

events—and now perhaps the Conservatory. Where is the need for a function room?

Every school in Duxbury has its own library (some very impressive) with a paid librarian and in most cases unpaid volunteers. The children are hardly deprived when it comes to access to books, and are strongly encouraged to use them.

One of the uses for the present library that has been mentioned as a possibility (some a far cry from what the Wright family had in mind when they gave the Library to the Town) is a satellite site for a state college. That would seem to be a perfect use for the Upper Alden School, without destroying the whole interior. That is what it looks like, and was intended to be—a school, not a library.

I'm concerned about all the references made to the Plymouth Library, which I suspect was the motivation behind this whole grandiose scheme. Plymouth is a town of around 50,000, with a bursting school population and with Rte 44 contributing to more housing construction; Duxbury, with 15,000, and limited building lots, is hardly comparable.

Kingston recently solved its library needs in a sensible way taking over a telephone building. Hingham is in the process of expanding its library (reputed to be the most used in the state) by using adjoining town office buildings and moving those and other departments (such as the Water Department) into a school building, much like Upper Alden and built around the same time. They are practising financial conservatism after having had a near-revolution 3 years ago when their taxes were increased.

\$6,325,000 is one big chunk of cash, no matter how you divide it up.

Duxbury is already distinguished by the fact of having a tax rate higher than any of the 10 towns around it. It doesn't need to compete with Plymouth or any other town by having the biggest and most expensive library.

Priscilla Harris

Editor, *Duxbury Clipper*:

This Saturday the voters of Duxbury will be presented with an exciting and unique opportunity. A 2/3 favorable endorsement of the Alden Library Project positions the town to receive 2 million dollars of state grant money for library reconstruction. The plans will proceed only if this contingency is achieved. Should it fail, the town is now compelled to bring the library's existing 5 levels into full compliance with federal laws (Americans with Disabilities Act) and the more stringent state codes (Architectural Access Board). Achieving multilevel accessibility would interrupt services and compromise existing space by 50%, all at great expense to the town and with no aid from state or federal agencies. The type of municipal service rendered will dictate the level and extent of compliance (and cost ensued) for any future use at this site.

The trustees have worked diligently to submit an even more attractive proposal than 2 years ago. They have already received a \$200,000 federal grant and have a very active and on-going private fundraising campaign. The \$2 million state grant money is NOT available for the current site but will be for the Alden relocation, yet only with the 2/3 approval March 11 at Town Meeting. This is the most cost-effective solution to provide access to library services in a public building, and will benefit the entire community.

Change is never easy, but sometimes very necessary. Our Town Manager, elected and appointed officials (selectmen and school committee members, finance committee and the fiscal advisory board), all have endorsed this worthy project. I urge you to support Article 10 and the Alden Library Project and unify the town through the enthusiasm of this fiscally responsible endeavor.

Patricia Cristoforo

Editor, *Duxbury Clipper*:

(The following letter was sent to Town Manager Rocco Longo regarding the Old Duxbury High School (Alden Upper Building)).

At your request the former school building and proposed new library building was observed on Monday, Feb. 27, 1995. Proposed design development renovation plans by Galliher and Baier, including architectural and structural drawings and a structural engineering report of existing conditions and proposed structural work were reviewed.

The general scheme appears to be divided into 2 structural solutions. The original building will have new vertical and horizontal structural framing to meet the vertical and horizontal loads of the current State building code, while keeping the exterior walls as non-bearing "veneer;" whereas, the 1951 addition uses will be limited to the present structural capacity and keeping the exterior walls for vertical and horizontal loads.

Based on our review of the drawings and report, observations of the interior and exterior of the building and our experience with a very similar structure this project is feasible.

We suggest that the architectural team review the present estimate to insure that all scope items are covered including the following:

1. Extent of lintel replacement or repair, if any.
2. Removal or retainment of the second floor concrete corridor area.
3. Extent of floor, attic and roof framing at entire wall perimeter of original building so that existing walls are supporting only their own weight.
4. Extent of connections of exterior walls to new steel framing accommodating movement of new rigid frames.
5. Extent of separation of the attic and roof framing

of the original building from the exterior walls, if any.

We recommend that before the project is issued for general bids that the structural peer review required for the building permit be completed to settle any difference of opinion as can happen on any project, but particularly on renovations. Enclosed is a copy for this requirement of the State Building Code.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Richard Foley
Foley and Buhl Engineering Inc.
Watertown

Editor, *Duxbury Clipper*:

To correct a misconception that the library is opposed to the Alden project, the following members of the staff express our full, unqualified support for the new state-of-the-art library proposed in Article 10 of the Annual Town Meeting of March 11.

Our major concern is service, and we are frustrated by the limitations imposed by our current space problems. We are aware of the services we could and should be

offering the community but are continually reminded that design and space often determine function. Planning for the future continues to be impeded by the deficiencies of our current building. We are also concerned because independent use of the library is difficult to impossible for people with disabilities.

Four of us have worked on the design, have been involved in all planning phases, and have visited and evaluated a variety of new and renovated libraries in other communities. All of us have reviewed the design and are satisfied that the plan represents the town's best opportunity to have a functional, open, flexible library that will be large enough to meet present and future information needs and allow us to provide the quality of library service that the town needs and deserves. We are also confident that it will have a beauty, comfort, and ambiance of its own that will please and inspire library users of all ages for many years to come.

Joanne Lamothe, acting director;
Nancy Denman, head of children's services;
Rose Hickey, reference and acquisitions
librarian; Janice Neubauer, reference and tech
services librarian; Kathleen Fay, secretary;
Debbie Wisleder, library technician; Caroline
Chapin, part-time reference librarian;
Katherine Nollner, part-time reference
librarian; Doreen Recke, part-time library
technician; and Linda Zanetti,
part-time library technician.